The anti-Kerry piece that Sinclair Broadcasting is ordering its affiliates to air sounds so editorially unbalanced that it is in effect a piece of campaign advertising. As such, a fee should be charged for its airing.

This action clearly oversteps fair practice in news broadcasting and is truly scary. Because Sinclair Broadcasting reaches so many American homes, an action like this could easily tilt the election. The damage will be done by the airing and will not be undone by any punitive action later.

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The stakes are huge here. Our very system of government becomes threatened when its citizens receive tainted information. We look to the FCC to remedy such grievous offenses.